

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 PER-01 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

MMO-01 /026 W

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R 171738Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1150

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 13728

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, MILI, GW

SUBJECT: FMOD HINTS AT DESIRABILITY OF UPGRADING DEFATT
POSITION

REF: BONN 07141 DTG 021723Z MAY 75

1. AS REPORTED SEPTEL, EMBOFF INFORMED MAJOR GENERAL BRANDT, CHIEF OF THE POLITICO-MILITARY SECTION OF THE FMOD, OF THE U.S. INTENTION TO TERMINATE MAAG GERMANY. GENERAL BRANDT TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO STATE HIS SURPRISE THAT THE USG HAD NOT TAKEN THE OCCASION PROVIDED BY THE EARLIER DOWNGRADING OF THE CHIEF MAAG POSITION TO RAISE THE RANK OF DEFATT TO GENERAL OFFICER LEVEL.

2. GENERAL BRANDT ASKED WHETHER THE USG PROPOSED RAISING THE DEFATT POSITION TO GENERAL OFFICER RANK NOW THAT MAAG WAS BEING ABOLISHED, NOTING "EVEN THE AUSTRIANS HAVE A GENERAL AS DEFENSE ATTACHE HERE IN BONN." EMBOFF NOTED ONLY THAT THE SUBJECT HAD BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON BUT THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE NO FIRM DECISION ON THE MATTER HAD BEEN TAKEN. GENERAL BRANDT THEN STATED THAT HE PRESUMED THAT THE USG WOULD ACT ONCE THE GENERAL OFFICER WHOM THE SOVIET UNION WAS ASSIGNING AS ITS DEFENSE ATTACHE IN BONN ACTUALLY ARRIVED IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL.

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3. ACTION REQUESTED: WHILE GENERAL BRANDT DID NOT OVER-STEP THE BOUNDS OF PROPRIETY BY REQUESTING THE ASSIGNMENT OF A GENERAL OFFICER AS DEFATT, HE OBVIOUSLY WISHED TO LEAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE FRG WOULD WELCOME SUCH A MOVE. IN VIEW OF THE IMMINENT TERMINATION OF MAAG GERMANY AND OF GENERAL BRANDT'S INDICATION OF FRG INTEREST IN HAVING A GENERAL OFFICER AS U.S. DEFATT, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS A REVIEW OF THE DEFENSE ATTACHE POSITION LEVEL. THE COUNTRY TEAM CONTINUES TO BELIEVE (REFTEL) THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR THE DEFATT TO BE OF GENERAL OFFICER RANK. THIS BELIEF IS REINFORCED, OF COURSE, BY THE SOVIET UNION'S INTENT TO SEND A ONE STAR GENERAL AS ITS DEFENSE ATTACHE.
HILLENBRAND

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